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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 28 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 May 1998 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volka VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 28 May 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 7 and 19 May 1998 addressed to you by Greek Cypriot delegates at the United Nations which contain allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/52/889-S/1998/381 and A/52/914-S/1998/418).

I would like to recall that similar allegations of so-called airspace violations were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 6 May 1998 (A/52/893-S/1998/383). Since the present allegations are of the same nature, they do not merit a detailed reply. Suffice it to say that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the south has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

These unfounded allegations put forward by the Greek Cypriot administration ad nauseam are aimed at covering up its policy of escalation and tension on the island. In this context, it should be noted that within the framework of the their "joint military doctrine", Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration have recently staged provocative military exercises in and around Cyprus. As part of the joint air and naval exercises code-named "Toxotis" and "Vergina", held between 20 and 25 May 1998, F-16 fighter planes belonging to the Greek Air Force flew over the newly constructed Andreas Papandreou military airbase in Paphos and fired at mock targets using live ammunition. Furthermore, Greek-Greek Cypriot troops staged a "landing" in the Larnaca area, in South Cyprus, parachuting from Greek Air Force C-130 transport planes.

On the eve of these provocative military exercises, the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Yannakis Omirou, was in Athens reviewing new arms purchases for the Greek Cypriot National Guard. The Greek Cypriot daily Mahi of 19 May 1998 reported that within the coming months, the Greek Cypriot National Guard would acquire military hardware from the Greek arms industry, including 88 14MI4-type military transport vehicles and 100 jeeps. According to the report, the Greek Cypriot administration also intends to acquire "Kentavros" armoured carriers from Greece.

The Greek Cypriot administration and Greece are jointly pursuing a reckless policy of escalation and tension in the area. It should be recalled that the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, in a speech broadcast on Greek Cypriot radio on 24 January 1998, boasted that "today Cyprus and Greece are one integrated whole". These policies coupled with belligerent rhetoric do not augur well for the future of peace and stability on the island.

All parties interested in a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus dispute should counsel the Greek Cypriot side to desist from the dangerous course of action it has taken and to seek a peaceful settlement on Cyprus based on the existing realities on the island.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus